UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1997/L.4/Add.32
1 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-seventh session
9 June-3 July 1997
Agenda item 8

DRAFT REPORT

Rapporteur: Mrs. Sharon BRENNEN-HAYLOCK (Bahamas)

Addendum

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999 (item 4 (a))

Section 31. Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance

1. At its 17th meeting, on 20 June 1997, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 31, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

Discussion

2. Many delegations welcomed the emphasis placed on major maintenance of United Nations properties, and expressed full support for the proposals in the section. Some delegations expressed the view that instead of undertaking a "catch-up" maintenance programme, a programme of preventive maintenance would be more cost-effective. One delegation stated that the priority for the programme of alteration and improvement should be focused on areas where meetings were held. Another delegation expressed the view that the programme of alteration, improvement and major maintenance should ensure that acceptable working conditions were provided to both staff working in the buildings and those attending meetings. One delegation, while supporting the importance of the maintenance of buildings, felt that, in view of the difficult financial situation of the Organization, the resources allocated to it should be reduced. Other delegations expressed full support for the resources requested under the

section. A number of delegations stressed the need to preserve the architectural integrity of the structures of all United Nations buildings.

Conclusions and recommendations

3. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly the approval of the narrative of section 31, Alteration, improvement and major maintenance.